Dear Paul, 6/6/75

Often what I do is squeezed in and poured around other things. Thus a letter may also serve as my own note on something.

In this case the Prouty Genesis piece alleging the CIA controls Ford. I read and marked it for future reference, if any, while my wife was grocery shopping. This may be cut short by the evening TV news (we get both NBC and CBS), during which I'll be making packages of books.

I told you I have from the first regarded him as the military's answer to the CIA. This article is more confirmation. I have not seen most of what he has written but what I've seen is entirely consistent with this thesis, as is every one of his appearances I've caught.

This is not proof. It is preconception converted into belief grown into conviction.

It also need not mean a formal function. If he does this on his own it serves the same purpose as his being paid to do it so far as the military is concerned.

There are only a few farout opinions in this piece, some pretty wild. But overall less than most.

He states basic truths about how it works. These become more persuasive because they are first person. I can assume they are accurate or close enough to it without any problem with the most fundamental tenet, inherent, but close to specific: the only thing wrong with the military in SEAsia is the CIA.

With a certain amount of knowledge of past fact, this is clearly false. He has taken spook tricks and converted them into an exculpation of the military. There are such tricks, everywhere. The less the brute power the more the need for guile.

The CIA did not have to twist the military's arm except on detail and responsibility.

And the intervention policy was fixed almost before FDR was stiff.

In this instance the head as much as the article makes Ford innocent of all his authoritarian, militaristic acts, like what followed the writing of the article, the Mayaguez incident.

My own view is that Ford has a better probability of being dominated by the military than by the CIA. When there is a real split, which is not often.

The phone connection was clear on this end. No strange noises and I can't account for those you describe except possibly as a machine malfunction.

I did not hear the Fensterwald news item to which you refer. I think I know what he was referring to. He now denies having said that this man is a "hit" man named Demereaux. I think it not likely it has anything to do with anything except the kind of head Bud has and is.

Best,